

prevailing conditions



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through the looking glass, 2021

June 10 to and fro, hey ho, we're all across – brisk and west, streaky and massed – following our off-beat path - sun, fixed and steady in the sky – so peaceful, we could be the last people on earth, awooooo, seen all those movies, apocalypse, Mad Max – problem with those movies, all they focus on is weapons – do you have seeds, tools, do you know how to filter water, what about herb lore, who can find edible plants – we won't survive by killing each other – give praise, believe in people working together, skilling not killing. – ur skilling it, bro – dude, no bros here – ten o'clock, a lick of dark, look, everyone flickering

July 20 fam jam in Salmon Arm, that's BC, beeyatches – mainly cloudy, 30 percent chance – i'm here, into the wild, into real knowledge, look for a green backpack, I Love Mullets shirt – here's our Kate Moss Rousseau – not in Kansas any more, Toto – key to happiness is kindness, and fighting for our rights – ikr – you gotta fight for your right to party, woohoo – we'll be bopped in the noggin when its noggin-boppin time – those clouds all burnt off – if u be reading this on yr golden screen leave me the last selfie you took, put this on yr timeline, shake up the algo-rythmn-nation plus i get to see all my friends, not just those Fuckerberg lets in

June 25 grove rave, whirl up, hurl your dirgy green over us, cover us with boughs of fir – knit rainbow stockings for Cassiopeia – my mind rolling in the wind, turning southeast, clearing this morning – open the tickle trunk, clean the lyres, get down to being here now – come we now awalking, live-streaming in nature lol – white hot poplar, hit of magic smoke, little spiritual insights – you and me and the leaves on the trees – streak of light, streak of dark, way of the world

July 1 days a’leaping, family, community, liberty of the human mind – dreams sticking hard to my eyelids – gotta pay the muse her dues – all people, all creatures, every one who creatures on this physical plain deserves love – blue stripe at the top of this big-wig cumulus looming down on us – set up the tarps, wind a’comin’ – honey, onion, ginger, turmeric, boil fifteen minutes – same as last year but hotter, 40 degrees – they’re calling it a heat dome idk – strain and take two tbsp twice a day – add googly eyes to the bell peppers, bound to heal your soul a little, give it a try

July 5 i’m starting a new video project, i want to hear from you, show the world the power of stories and collective thinking, we-thought – what’s on your minds peeps, this is our summit lol – gloomy cumulus like a tumour, storm be coming – imma jump in here, something on my feed today, not mentioned in the fakenews, Canada’s housing crisis – yassss, what about us – wavering through the world, overgrown with longing – never forget mass homelessness is caused by federal policy – the road to Utopia is steep and slippery, this election our vote can change policies, maybe we can do something important – what’s this i hear, the toppling of pedestals – storm passing us by – the light seems techno, dude, IDM lolz – next weather expected Sunday, 60 percent chance – two trends converging

July 8 is that fog or smoke in the overcast – morning bit of sad as my children re-enter traditional school after our year of homeschooling brought them so much knowledge, growth – i'll let you in on a secret, the field of education's basically just a hundred years old. before the late 19th century no society had ever tried to formally educate the entire populace – you know so much – i have a Master's Degree and know words, language, critical thinking – all the old-growth disappearing at the end of the world – aristocracy, meritocracy, always male – still smack-dab in the middle of the greatest experiment on children ever done – sun on the southern slope, no rain again

July 9 much like Trump ignores science, principals and superintendents i've known flout research and see kids only as piggy-banks to stuff with test-driven trivia – gotta make the harvest marketable – anyone notice how brittle the trees look, shrivelled, crinkly leaves – based on pure materialism, nothing to do with the real, the soul but lauded by the gods of industry – young minds stuffed into cubicles – listen to this video by peaceluvvers on TikTok – holy. smoking. cow. someone's finally saying this in public, things I've been thinking and feeling for so long, finally we're hearing people say it aloud, I feel heard and seen for the first time in my life – hurry down, the deep is rolling, surface cracking, winds rising, windy histories coming to light – s'truth, brother

July 15 picking through broken branches, deadfall in my mind,
crops failing, whole mountains sawed off, all the goats died, unknown
causes, something crossed my screen but it's gone, never saw what it
was, just a shimmer – sky cancelled due to coronavirus, the fckn flu, so
cruel, people need people – forget Orwell, Mary Shelley slow-clapped
the technocrats in Frankenstein, Big Tech in their 5G mausoleums –
FalseUnicorn on TikTok, my grandmother's going to die alone, no one
to hug her, touch her, do you know what this means – so windy, kind
of a reverb sound – killing children, sending old people out on ice floes
– looky here, krando on TikTok #crimesagainsthumanity
#nomorefreedom #tyranny – wild feelings here we go

July 20 BC cancelled, folkz, entrance restrictions, system-wide
delays, Soviet Day at the SaveOn – not saying covid isn't real, how
they're handling it smacks of corruption, inhuman practices – sun
sliding low across the grasses, fragments of old stone walls, industrial
things, animals and plants replaced by these things – here's how it
works, BigPharma buys research to promote their drugs, they buy
doctors to push their drugs – already 30 degrees – not in it for health,
turns out the medical body is run by pharmaceuticals who also sit on
the boards of all the major media companies – literal goosebumps
now, side-eye glimpses, darker at the bottom in this bad dream –
authority and obedience stuck-on-repeat – where is the grove

Aug 1 prevailing conditions, hills throwing down shadows,
people, days – I've wandered into some time-free zone in a world I
can't grok – whoah, awfully strong wind – winds take our thoughts
and let them soar – listen up, some wisdom here – swedishchick on
TikTok #viral #control #deceptional #deathjab #justsayno
#protectthechildren – Darkkarbz on TikTok – moon going from half
to quarter, gravitas pressing in – #naziaustralia – Silent Protest Gold
Coast – earthbound and afraid, eddied out of the normal world, our
faces evaporating – sometimes i look at the sky, wonder how things
stay up there

Aug 15 the way we share news has changed – hidden doors are opening – DrCedric on TikTok – pandemic, or pandemic of the gullible – Max Igan is speaking live #sovereign #humanrights #televisionlies #wethepeople – heaven, earth, lake, spike protein cytotoxic on this tacit day – who knows what our tents are resting on – wanna talk science, look at Israel – #nurses of TikTok #math #truth – rant and roar, share some news from medical professionals not bought by BigPharma, in deep undercover, persecuted for bringing us the truth, helping us unlearn all we were taught – question your reality

Aug 20 i retraced my steps, recognized nothing surrounding me, evasions and silences – NahNah on TikTok #covidcorruption #wakeup #stopmasking #leavethekidsalone – believe, fully believe, thoughts appearing clear and fresh – Authority tries to own us, we have already surrendered too much surface – unreliable light, too many shadows, we can only see our reflections in cop car windows – TinCan on TikTok – their days creep over us, deepstate lockstep – the infrastructure bill, blueprint for dystopia, 2700 pages #dictatorship #genocide – more restrictions – we’re going to live our lives, down but not out – protest at City Hall, cancel the apocalypse, unlock the good ending, we’re returning, we will always return, unscripted, vast and strange

Aug 30 current mood, a little blurred, thots white as moonlight spilled over a riverbank – sorrow gone cumulus – Sonic1 on TikTok #stopmasking #stimming #stimmingpositivity #misinformation #leftistlogic – vancityhotwife on TikTok #bchellno #indoctrination #conservative – disturbed by Berlin and Budapest – Calgary Freedom Centre, fire fighters, EMS and police stood one hour in silence today at city hall in solidarity against government mandates, madness – Fordfokus on TikTok #military #navy #army #marines #airforce #spaceforce – pharmaceuticals, world banks and militaries – dark skies, black smiles, certain death – hopefully the vaccine trail will unveil their evil #prepare4trouble

Sept 3 we the unwitting, empty and achy at the abyss, water level low, pooled thick as blood, all those hours alone in the dark – thought i saw a comet – ooo, an omen – one heralded the death of Caesar – all hands to the grill, don't mask up, you a bank robber, faces welcome here – ThinkItUp on TikTok #forcedvax – why are pharmaceutical companies demanding military right to countries they provide vaccines to #wakeup – so many white suvs, where are they coming from – they are going into people's homes and vaccinating children, our children – children stuffed into a crushed walk-up on 7th – futures revoked – endless questions wrapped in red flags

Sept 4 the whole time i typed this out i was fed predictive text from their propaganda generator – disappearing cities, moonless sky swaying in hazardous weather – something bigger in play than a virus – light on the move now, deep blue above orange to the west – TreezyD on TikTok #woketok #spiritual #thejab #vaxpass – harsh bush, dry scrub, willows and pines all imported – pulpmill at the port, pulpists chatting up their pet rockefellers – thugs occupying Fairy Creek, more storm troopers on the way, interesting, those red arm bands – i believe they would kill their relatives for not washing their hands – red sky crumbling open #whereishumanity @boobear747 #usa live Biden, mandatory vaccinations – their cruel reality is fur real people – #freedom #yourchoice #stoptheshot #bethechange – how can we know what wasn't left

Sept 5 sudden weather, clouds running out of options – UV levels, ozone, have you checked the AQHI today – our planet run by windagos, comorbidity and old people, old at heart anyway – stratospheric fascism – governments send us to war to shore up resources, pillage our planet – actually they’re nazis, them, the royal family and families like the Saudis – Hitler, lol, didn’t die but joined forces with these families when it was revealed how much they controlled. immune systems compromised – people killed in hospitals recorded as “covid deaths” – they manufactured this, in states of fear we bought it – theories climbing Jacob’s Ladders – thoughts dancing on tectonic plates – applied volcanos – our words crackling between stations – pentecost streaming from our mouths

Sept 6 Hitler rolled into countries, they wanted him to genocide – look what the crown did to indigenous Canada – only stunted trees this far back #notaccidental and then while people’s loved ones are dying, livelihoods bleak, spirits broken #thereich rises again – we the people, unblocking the soliloquies, breaking open the great empty ballrooms of top-down authority #israel – first off hitler was like anakin and made a Darth Vader #darkfather. he didn’t suicide he had plenty of doubles – anyway, about Israel. their government is run by nazis – smoke in the sky, living histories searing the atmosphere, subhuman conditions, silent running policies – what could be more nazi than displacing peoples out of their land #truthelusiveasever

Sept 7 smoke makes everything look distant, like being at sea – anyone doing anything about these fires, earth burning up – no, they're all busy removing our rights, all our governments are shams, a bloodline family thing – take Russia, the tsars lost their power, of course they were one of the original families, which i'm pretty sure is why Putin does what he wants, he's original blood – it was probably Putin who was, like, make my buddy Trump president, pretty sure they used Trump, made him say things that are true but knowing if he said it, it would be discounted – anyway, oh, and they've been slowly killing us with processed food and prescription drugs, we are less than cattle to them, truthfully – hopefully some swapping of vaccines in the supply chain, or as many of our leaders have done #faketheshot

Sept 8 the solution is bottom-up – soldiers and police, check yer hearts before following orders, maybe they need inspiration from us – Swiss protestors against covid passports, laying flowers for police – freedom raining down the insides of my glasses – incredible how many people follow mainstream Medea so blindly. countless credible links should raise serious eyebrows. so many asleep sheep. #secretsocietythings #conspiracytiktok #joerogen – adolf hitler was a Rothschild, why do we have a direct relative to adolf hitler running the U.S

Sept 9 sounds beyond our ken – RomansI on TikTok – biased_devils_advocate on TikTok #nationalguard #exposeddeepstate #saveamerica2021 – we can start arresting these demonic papertrails – raw trucks logged along the highway, a long way from home, smoke clumping down the mountains #refusevaccinations – murders disguised as covid deaths – smoke is sickening, where is it coming from, AQHI over ten – we are being exterminated – is this even real, i can't believe what i see or hear – what happened to humanity??? are we even safe where we are? we are being exterminated – talk to Trump, i'm sure he'll tell us everything we need to know – then we can keep them in the covid concentration camps they built for us



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notes

If you have logged on to any social media platform in the past year or so, you may have noticed a relative, friend or acquaintance show an odd interest in child trafficking, Bill Gates and/or any number of conspiracy theories about the coronavirus. They may be somehow affiliated with QAnon, a kind of conspiracy theory about everything, whose followers believe that a cabal of satan-worshipping Democrats, Hollywood celebrities and billionaires runs the world while engaging in pedophilia and human trafficking. Among many things, QAnon followers believe Donald Trump is waging a secret battle against this cabal and its “deep state” collaborators to expose the malefactors and send them all to Guantánamo Bay.

In some respects QAnon seems to be an amplified social media version of much older embedded moral panics. Some of its roots can be traced to anti-semitic conspiracy theories. The idea of an all-powerful cabal comes straight out of The Protocols of the Elders of Zion, a fake-news document purporting to expose a Jewish plot to control the world. Of course, Satan is also alive and well, conspicuously present in the movement, and you can see traces of the witch trials of the 17th Century as well as the incarnation of satanic panic that began in the 1980s.

The theory, or cluster of theories, first popped up on various online message boards like 8Chan, where a figure, known only as Q, claimed to be a government insider with top security clearance and knew the truth about the secret power struggle between Trump and the “deep state.” Q uses a “trip code” that allows followers to distinguish his posts from those of other anonymous users, who are known as “anons.” Followers share “breadcrumbs” – clues – about the dark and powerful forces enslaving America. Q’s posts tend to consist of a long string of leading questions designed to guide readers toward discovering the “truth” for themselves through “research.” The posts, known as “drops” contain “breadcrumbs” of intelligence that followers “bake” into “proofs.”

This incarnation of collective panic is an Internet creature animated in the miasma of the Trump presidency. I have been especially fascinated by the way this conspiracy movement has grown to subsume millions of already existing theories, similar to the way the Internet itself swallowed millions of local networks. To me, it is also inseparable from the Covid-19 pandemic, and seems to behave like a virus, running rampant through unvaccinated populations on hundreds of social media platforms. No one seems to be entirely immune.

Considering all the frightening events unfolding in the world right now, who could be surprised to see a conspiracy theory pandemic like this emerge? We have entered a fearful, authoritarian, tribal age. QAnon beliefs themselves may sound like cosplay or live action role playing, but current society with its pandemics, broken social bonds, collapsing public infrastructures, useless leadership, deep repressed panic over climate change does seem particularly ripe for virulent millenarianism.

I have always loved a good conspiracy theory and have been tracking this movement for a while, especially its exponential growth and infiltration of politics on local and national levels. Many people say QAnon is most popular among conservative boomers and evangelical Christians, but many followers come to QAnon through tributaries that extend across New Age spiritual movements, wellness, fitness, Yoga communities, which is my personal portal.

My piece, *prevailing conditions*, is completely made up of text extracted from the Facebook timeline of an acquaintance who has long been involved in New Age, music and festival communities. Rather than imposing a single narrative thread, I have assembled posts from the entire group, juxtaposing many voices to show a multiplicity of voices, attitudes, thoughts, beliefs, weaving in and out of their local, provincial and national societies. Following the site showed me how group members influence, fuel and eventually infect each other. Reading my Facebook friend's posts made me feel I was entering the rabbit hole with them in real-time and I found the rapid spread and escalation of the "infection" astonishing and very sad.

I once loved seeing their posts about festivals, the joy they found in life, their back to nature "skilling not killing" ethos. I agreed with so many of their ideas on education, government, respect for nature. In a matter of weeks, this timeline became pocked with hashtag slogans. Personal photos of festivals were replaced with anti-vaccination videos from TikTok. It seemed to take only hours to start seeing references to red flags, Biden, Trump, military, air forces, sovereign rights; ready-made memes and slogans unrelated to any kind of local or situational reality. What saddened me most was how quickly the joie de vivre turned to despair and rage. I watched all the play and idealism vanish until a group that once promoted love to all creatures on Earth started talking about extermination.

I have not used anyone's real names, handles or avatars as I have no desire to embarrass or mock anyone. Dismissing the participants as idiots or dupes is not helpful; they are you and me, they cross all fake generational borders. My intention is to show on the molecular level of language how invasive thoughts and beliefs can take hold and change any of us, and how text messages, a hybrid of language and thought, are especially malleable. How do individual voices converge, flow like tributaries into a newsfeed, and finally coalesce into a collective voice? Most of all I want to capture how the diversity of voices and concerns become more and more monolithic as "political" discourse and hashtag slogans colonize the public space. You can feel the change in weather.

Something I hadn't expected was how much compassion I felt for this group, compassion mixed with a sense of loss, partly because I agreed with so much of what they originally stood for. They are people from all educational backgrounds, ages, professions, and at first it seemed as if people were bringing everything they found to a communal banquet table. QAnon is the voice from the zeitgeist, a call from the depths, a collective expression of panic, the denial of life, joy, creation in the wake of deep fears about climate change and endless pandemic in a larger crumbling society full of extreme alienation and lack of genuine individual agency.

Here are a few podcasts to listen to if you want to continue exploring:

- Suebsaeng, Asawin, Will Sommer. *Fever Dreams*. 2021-present.
- Kelly, Annie, Jake Rockatansky, Julian Feeld, Travis View. *QAnon Anonymous*. 2018-present.
- Hanrahan, Jake. *Q clearance: the hunt for QAnon*. 2021 to present.
- Roose, Kevin. *Rabbit Hole*. The New York Times, Technology series. 2020.

